

5. Contributions to the Ichthyology of the Congo.—I. On some new Fishes from the French Congo. By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

[Received March 1, 1902.]

(Plates XXII.—XXIV.<sup>1</sup>)

The British Museum has recently received from its excellent correspondent Mr. G. L. Bates a single fish obtained by him in the Ja River, flowing into the Sanga, an affluent of the right bank of the Congo, and this fish proves to belong to an undescribed species which requires the establishment of a new genus of Siluridæ.

At the same time the Director of the Royal Brussels Museum has entrusted me, at the request of my friend M. L. Dollo, with the study of the Congo Fishes preserved in that establishment. Among these I have found a small series of specimens coming from the Lukula River (sometimes spelt Likuala), another affluent of the right bank of the Congo, parallel to the Sanga. This series contains examples of five species:—*Marcusenius sphecodes* Sauvage, *Alestes kingsleyæ* Günther, *Auchenoglanis ballayi* Sauvage (all three previously known from the Ogowe only, and therefore new to the Congo system), and two new forms which are now described under the names of *Labeo lukulæ* and *Chilochromis duponti*.

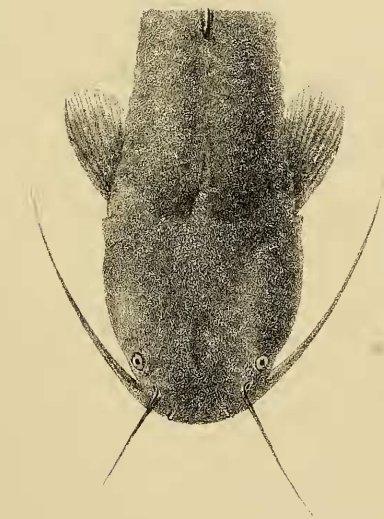
ALLABENCHELYS, g. n.

Intermediate between *Clarias* and *Clariallabes*. Agreeing with the former in the free border to the eye, with the latter in the sides of the head being unprotected by bone.

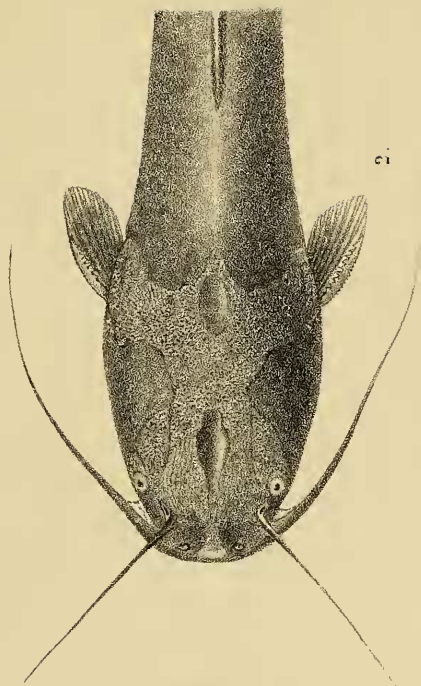
ALLABENCHELYS LONGICAUDA, sp. n. (Plate XXII. figs. 1, 1 a.)

Depth of body 12 times in total length, length of head 6 times. Head  $1\frac{1}{4}$  as long as broad, smooth above, the bony casque, in the middle, only one third the width of the head; postorbital shield narrow; supraoccipital process acutely pointed; a small frontal fontanelle; eye very small, its diameter 4 times in length of snout and 6 times in interorbital width; latter not quite half length of head; band of præmaxillary teeth 5 times as long as broad; vomerine teeth conical, in a crescentic band, which, in the middle, is nearly as broad as the præmaxillary band. Nasal barbel nearly half as long as head; maxillary barbel as long as head, reaching middle of pectoral spine; outer mandibular barbel  $\frac{2}{3}$  length of head, inner  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Gill-rakers moderately long, 12 on anterior arch. Clavicles hidden under the skin. Dorsal fin with 80 rays, anal with 60, both narrowly separated from the caudal; the distance between the origin of the dorsal and the occipital

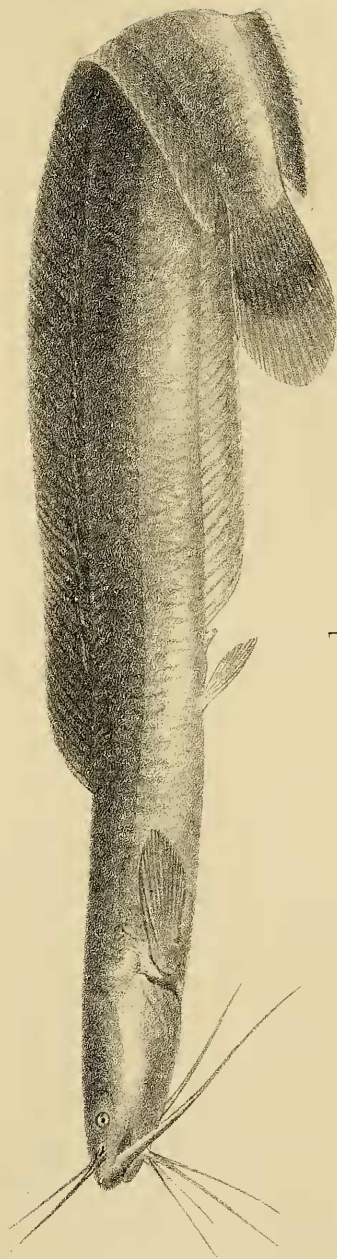
<sup>1</sup> For explanation of the Plates, see p. 237.



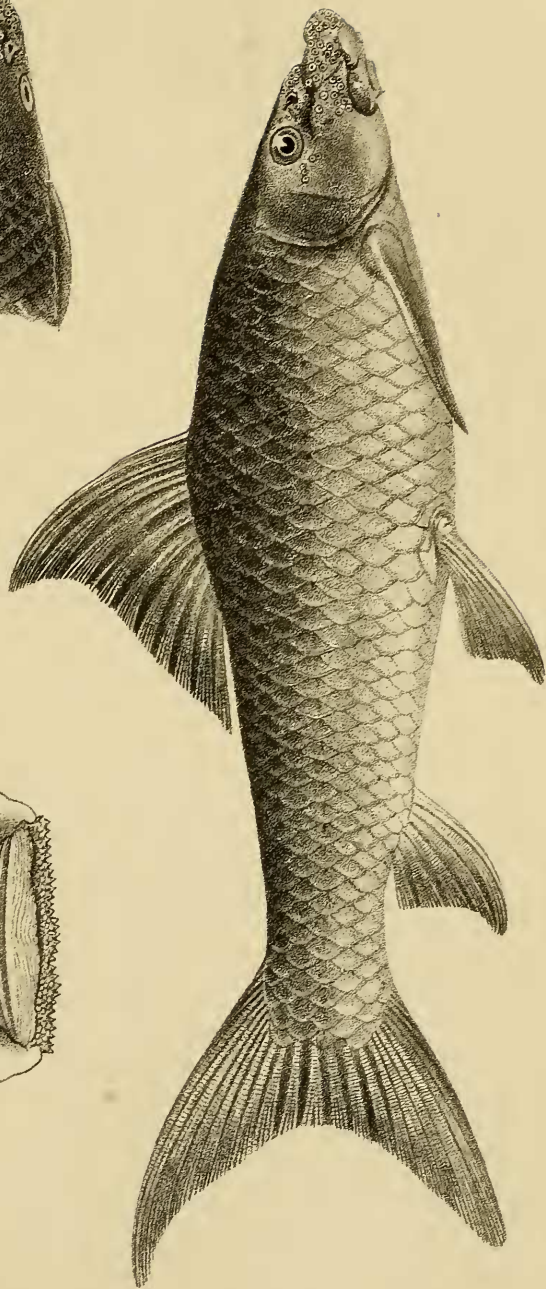
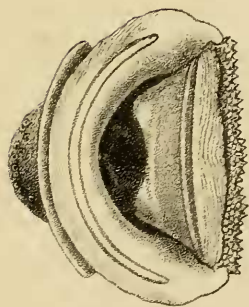
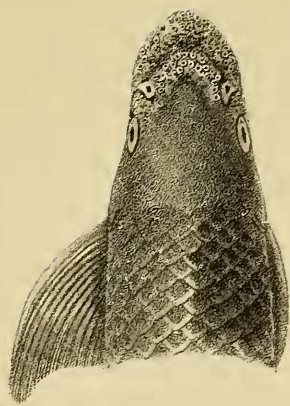
1a.



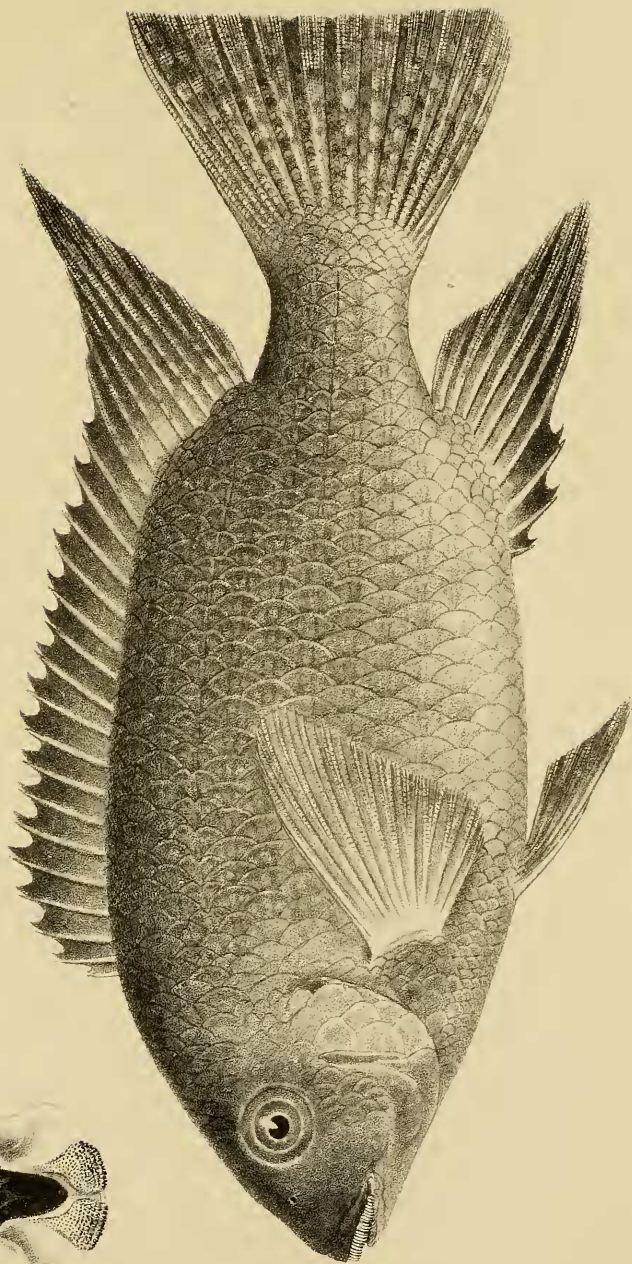
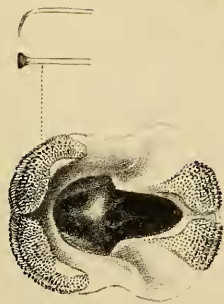
2.



1.







process  $\frac{3}{5}$  the length of the head. Pectoral half the length of the head; spine smooth,  $\frac{2}{3}$  the length of the fin. Ventrals small, twice as distant from the root of the caudal as from the end of the snout. Caudal  $\frac{2}{3}$  the length of the head. Dark olive-brown above, whitish beneath; vertical fins dark, anal edged with white (red?).

Total length 210 millim.

A single specimen was obtained by Mr. G. L. Bates in the Ja River, French Congo, 250 miles from the coast.

The nearest ally of this new fish is *Clariallabes melas* Blgr., from the Lower Congo, which differs, apart from the generic character of the absence of a free border to the eye, in the longer head, the more numerous rays to the dorsal and anal fins, which unite with the base of the caudal, and the presence of serrations on both sides of the pectoral spine. *Clariallabes melas* has never been figured; the upper surface of the head and of the anterior part of the body is represented on Pl. XXII. fig. 2, for comparison with *Allabenchelys longicauda*.

#### LABEO LUKULÆ, sp. n. (Plate XXIII.)

Body compressed, its depth nearly 4 times in total length; length of head  $4\frac{1}{2}$  times in total length. Head once and a half as long as broad; snout obtusely pointed, strongly projecting beyond the mouth, covered with large nuptial tubercles; eye supero-lateral, in the second half of the head, its diameter 6 times in length of head,  $2\frac{2}{3}$  in width of interorbital region, which is flat; width of mouth, with folded lips, half length of head; rostral flap and anterior border of lip not denticulated; posterior border of lip denticulated; inner surface of lip with numerous feeble, transverse plicæ; a minute barbel,  $\frac{2}{5}$  the diameter of the eye, hidden in the folds at the sides of the mouth. Dorsal III 10, with notched upper border; the longest ray equals the length of the head and twice that of the last; fin a little nearer the root of the caudal than the end of the snout. Anal II 5; longest ray  $\frac{2}{3}$  length of head. Pectoral falcate, as long as head, not reaching base of ventral. Ventral reaching vent, its first ray falling under the seventh (fourth branched) ray of the dorsal. Caudal deeply forked, with pointed lobes. Caudal peduncle once and a half as long as deep. Scales  $35\frac{5\frac{1}{2}}{7\frac{1}{2}}$ ; 4 series of scales between the lateral line and the root of the ventral; 12 scales round the caudal peduncle. Dark olive, belly whitish.

Total length 250 millim.

A single specimen from the Lukula River, preserved in the Royal Natural History Museum, Brussels. This species is to be placed near *L. macrostomus*, *L. greenii*, and *L. nasus*, from all three of which it is easily distinguished by the number of scales round the caudal peduncle—12 instead of 16 or 18; in this character agreeing with *L. parvus*, which differs in the shorter, less prominent snout, the shorter caudal peduncle, and one series of

scales less both above and below the lateral line. The numbers of scales are as follows in the six Congo species with notched dorsal fin with 10 or 11 branched rays, supero-lateral eyes, and a single barbel on each side :—

*L. fulcifer* Blgr.—Sq. 39  $\frac{7-8}{9-10}$ , 5 between L. l. and V., 20 round caud. ped.

*L. macrostomus* Blgr.—Sq. 38–39  $\frac{7}{7-8}$ , 4 between L. l. and V., 16–18 round caud. ped.

*L. greenii* Blgr.—Sq. 37–38  $\frac{6}{7}$ , 4 between L. l. and V., 16 round caud. ped.

*L. nasus* Blgr.—Sq. 38–39  $\frac{6}{7}$ , 4 between L. l. and V., 16 round caud. ped.

*L. lukulae* Blgr.—Sq. 35  $\frac{5}{7}$ , 4 between L. l. and V., 12 round caud. ped.

*L. parrus* Blgr.—Sq. 33–35  $\frac{4}{5-6}$ , 3 between L. l. and V., 12 round caud. ped.

#### CHILOCHROMIS, g. n.

Body moderately elongate; scales cycloid. Jaws with very broad bands of bristle-like movable teeth with club-shaped incised crowns; rami of lower jaw approximated, spatulate in front, connected with the upper jaw by a broad, thin lip; maxillary concealed under the præorbital. Dorsal with 17 spines, anal with 3.

This remarkable new genus approaches *Petrochromis* Blgr., but differs from it in the narrower lower jaw and in the teeth being simply club-shaped, instead of bi- or tricuspid. I have much pleasure in naming the species in honour of the eminent Director of the Brussels Museum, one of the pioneers in the geological exploration of the Congo Basin.

#### CHILOCHROMIS DUPONTI, sp. n. (Plate XXIV.)

Depth of body  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times in total length, length of head  $3\frac{1}{2}$  times. Snout rounded, with arched profile, a little longer than the diameter of the eye, which is contained  $3\frac{1}{2}$  times in the length of the head and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in the interorbital width; mouth extending to below the nostril; teeth very numerous, with reddish-brown crowns, those of the upper jaw in 8 or 9 transverse series, those of the lower jaw forming two spoon-shaped groups; the inner teeth smaller than the outer; 3 or 4 series of scales on the cheek; large scales on the opercle. Gill-rakers short and slender, 15 on lower part of anterior arch. Dorsal XVII 10; last spine longest,  $\frac{2}{5}$  length of head; middle soft rays longer than the head. Pectoral acutely pointed, as long as the head. Ventral not reaching the vent. Anal III 8; third spine longest, a little shorter than longest dorsal; middle soft rays  $\frac{3}{4}$  length of head. Caudal fin feebly emarginate. Caudal peduncle as long as deep. Scales  $33\frac{3\frac{1}{2}}{10}$ ; lat. l.  $\frac{22}{10}$ . Uniform olive-brown above, yellowish beneath; fins greyish.

Total length 220 millim.

A single specimen from the Lukula River, preserved in the Royal Natural History Museum, Brussels.

I avail myself of this opportunity to propose the name of *Pelmatochromis polyodon* for the fish from Monsembe which I have recently described (Ann. Mus. Congo, Zool. ii. p. 53) as *P. taniatus*, having overlooked the fact that the same name had been previously bestowed on a species from Nigeria.

#### EXPLANATION OF THE PLATES.

##### PLATE XXII.

- Fig. 1. *Allabenchelys longicauda*, p. 234,  $\frac{2}{3}$  nat. size.  
 1 a. " " Upper surface of head,  $\frac{2}{3}$  nat. size.  
 2. *Clariallabes melas*, p. 235,  $\frac{2}{3}$  nat. size.

##### PLATE XXIII.

*Labeo lukule*, p. 235, with view of open mouth,  $\frac{2}{3}$  nat. size.

##### PLATE XXIV.

*Chilochromis duponti*, p. 236, with view of open mouth,  $\frac{2}{3}$  nat. size.

April 15, 1902.

Prof. G. B. HOWES, LL.D., F.R.S., Vice-President,  
 in the Chair.

The Secretary read the following report on the additions made to the Society's Menagerie in March 1902:—

The registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of March were 146 in number. Of these 38 were acquired by presentation, 18 by purchase, 3 were born in the Gardens, and 87 were received on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period, by death and removals, was 143.

Amongst the additions attention may be specially directed to:—

1. A Monkey of the genus *Cercopithecus*, procured by Major Delmé-Radcliffe in the Latuka Mountains, about a hundred miles east of the Upper Nile in Northern Uganda, and presented to the Society on March 1st. This Monkey appears to belong to a new species allied to *Cercopithecus leucampyx*, but easily distinguishable by the white ear-tufts and grey back. I propose to name it Delmé-Radcliffe's Monkey (*Cercopithecus otoleucus*). It may shortly be described as follows:—

*CERCOPITHECUS OTOLEUCUS.* (Plate XXV.)

Above fuliginous, back more or less grizzled with pale fulvous, head above black; frontal line white, with hairs rather elongated;